

INDEPTH **TD-12K**

# Compact **HIT**

## **TAP INTO TAP PATTERNS**

Roland percussion modules with built-in sequencers allow you to assign patterns to any pad in any kit. You can start and stop the patterns simply by hitting the pad. Tap Patterns are a type of pattern that let you, the player, control the rhythm of the pattern. When a Tap P pattern is assigned to a given pad, playing that pad will step through the notes of the pattern one at a time, with each successive hit. So you can play a melody or chord progression on one pad.

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**Roland**



**The TD-12K – Roland's latest addition to its V-Drums family – offers the dynamic sound range and playability of its big brother, the TD-20K, yet in a more compact package.** Words: David Garza

In 2004, Roland redefined electronic drumming once again with the new flagship drum kit, the V-Pro Series TD-20K. This evolutionary development in V-Drums technology resulted in an overwhelmingly positive response from the drumming community. Now Roland is offering a new addition to the V-Drums family: the new TD-12K. This set puts the amazing sounds and playability of its big brother into a more compact yet very powerful package. So let's grab some sticks and check it out.

### Easy set-up

Setting up the TD-12K couldn't be easier, thanks to the MDS-12BK stand. Simply unfold the stand, attach the pad and cymbal mounts, and you're ready for the drum and cymbal pads. The stand is supplied with all the cables you need, neatly concealed within the tubes. Cables are clearly labelled, so there's no confusion as to which one connects to which pad or module input. There are also three cables (terminated with female connectors) on the right front post for the TD-12K's Crash 2 and two auxiliary inputs for expansion.

Now set-up is complete, let's explore the kit.

### Compact impact

Power up the TD-12K Percussion Sound Module, and from the first few hits you'll immediately know that this is a serious drum kit. This kit has the same deep, rich and punchy sounds found in the flagship TD-20. The acoustic drum kit's sound is simply incredible, and the playability lets you bring out all the nuances for which V-Drums are famous. The TD-12K is a more compact kit than its big brother, and it will easily fit into any live, studio, or practice situation. However, even though the pads of the TD-12K are smaller, there is no sacrifice in playability.

The snare pad is a ten-inch PD-105 dual-trigger Mesh V-Pad. It's a great size for a snare and comfortable to play. The PD-105 triggers evenly and expressively all the way around on the head and the rim, and allows you to take full advantage of all snare drum techniques, including rim shots, rim clicks and even cross stick. The pad and module's positional-sensing feature brings out more ring in the snare tone when you play toward the rim. This feature also enables rim shots that range from full crack to shallow beat depending on how close the tip of the stick is to the rim. Buzz rolls are no problem, thanks to the TD-12K's new Interval Control



feature, which changes the attack of the sound depending on the speed of stroke. This allows even-sounding snare rolls and cymbal swells.

For the toms there are three new PD-85 eight-inch mesh V-Pads. These are also dual-trigger so you can play on the head, rim or both. They also have a cool new look, with chrome mounting hardware. The kick is a new KD-85 V-Kick trigger pad that can accommodate a double-kick pedal. Since the tension of these mesh pads is easily adjustable with a drum key, I've made my snare pad tight, with my tom and kick pads progressively looser. This gives the kit a great acoustic drum set feel.

### Cymbal innovation

One of the stellar innovations of the flagship TD-20K was the introduction of the first full motion hi-hat pad. This year it's joined by the new VH-11 V-Hi-Hat pad, which is included with the TD-12K set. The VH-11 has an ingenious one-piece 'floating' design that mounts easily onto a conventional hi-hat stand for full motion capability and natural hi-hat play.

The TD-12K also comes with two CY-12R/C V-Cymbal pads which are perfect as crash or ride cymbals. Plug one into the Crash 1 input of the TD-12K using the pad's Bow/Edge connection, and you can play both top and edge crash cymbal sounds. You can even perform cymbal chokes by grabbing the pad's edge. Playing the pad's bell brings out the bell sound, and laying into the edge brings out a ride edge sound. Play on different areas of the bow of the pad and the ride sound subtly changes – positional sensing at work again.

### Fun? Tonnes!

There are a variety of great acoustic, electronic, percussion and effect kits in the TD-12K's 50 presets. The kit is easily customised with an icon-based editing system and the COSM-based parameters that V-Drums are famous for.

There's much to explore in the sequencer section of the TD-12K. It's packed with patterns that cover a wide variety of musical styles that are just begging to be jammed with. You can record your own patterns as well. Many of the kits have patterns already assigned to pads; just hit the pad to start the music and play along. Some of the kits have Tap Patterns on the pads (see sidebar) that let you play an entire melodic line on, say, the rim of a tom. Some kits have patterns that loop, and several Tap Patterns assigned around a set. You can sound like a whole band as you play the drums, the chords, and the melodic parts – all at the same time. ■